



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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PLANT CITY OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO EIGHT COUNTS

Tampa, FL - Today Plant City Police Officer ARMAND T. COTNOIR, age 27, pleaded guilty to eight counts related to police misconduct. COTNOIR entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Richard A. Lazzara as his trial on these charges was about to begin its fourth day.

COTNOIR pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- ▶ Count one - Conspiracy to deprive citizens of their civil rights
- ▶ Count two - Deprivation of civil rights under color of law
- ▶ Count three - Obstruction of justice
- ▶ Counts five through nine - Mail fraud

Counts one and two carry a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment and all other counts carry a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. The judge set a sentencing date of September 27, 2002.

This case was investigated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey J. Del Fuoco.